total workforce in the country). The number has increased to 43.3 crore (94%) as per recent survey conducted by the same organization during 2004-05.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill, 2007 is under active consideration and Government intends to introduce the Bill during current session of the Parliament.

Upgradation of ITIs

1171. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration for major revamp and upgradation of the state-run Industrial Training Institutes under a Public-Private Partnership framework;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether corporate bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM etc. have ensured support for this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Union Finance Minister in his budget speech, 2007-08 announced upgradation of the remaining 1396 Government Industrial Training Institutes under public private partnership mode. Under the scheme, an interest free loan upto Rs. 2.5 crore per ITI is being provided for upgradation to Institute Management Committee to be headed by an industry partner who is being identified in consultation with industry bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, etc. which are fully supporting the scheme.

FDI in the beedi and tobacco sector

1172. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a representation from the Central Trade Union opposing the entry of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the beedi and tobacco sector;

(b) if so, the details of this representation;

(c) whether Government had done studies on the harmful effects of entry of giant foreign cigarette companies through FDI route; and

(d) the steps proposed to oppose entry of foreign MNCs into the beedi and tobacco sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.